



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

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Hired Workers Up 11 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Down 37 Cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 62,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of April 11-17, 2010, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.18 per hour during the April 2010 survey week, down 37 cents from April 2009. The number of hours worked averaged 37.4 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 39.5 hours in April 2009. Weather conditions in the Lake Region, which includes Minnesota, were considerably drier than last year's very wet and muddy reference week. This allowed spring fieldwork and planting activities to progress rapidly. Therefore, the demand for hired workers was much higher. During the 2010 reference week, Minnesota had warmer than average temperatures. Temperatures ranged from 9.3 to 11.4 degrees above average.

United States: There were 997,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2010, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 737,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 260,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.83 per hour during the April 2010 reference week, down 1 cent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, APRIL 2010						
	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}		
	April 12-18 2009	January 10-16 2010	April 11-17 2010	April 12-18 2009	January 10-16 2010	April 11-17 2010
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/}	1,000 Workers					
	56	46	62	680	602	737
Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/}	Hours Per Week					
	39.5	33.8	37.4	40.1	37.2	39.8
Workers By Work Type	Dollars Per Hour					
Field	10.92	11.12	10.95	9.99	10.09	10.04
Livestock	10.83	9.97	10.18	10.25	10.28	10.31
Field & Livestock	10.88	10.30	10.55	10.07	10.17	10.13
All Workers ^{3/}	11.55	11.22	11.18	10.84	11.05	10.83

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
2/ Excludes Alaska.
3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.